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23 November 1965

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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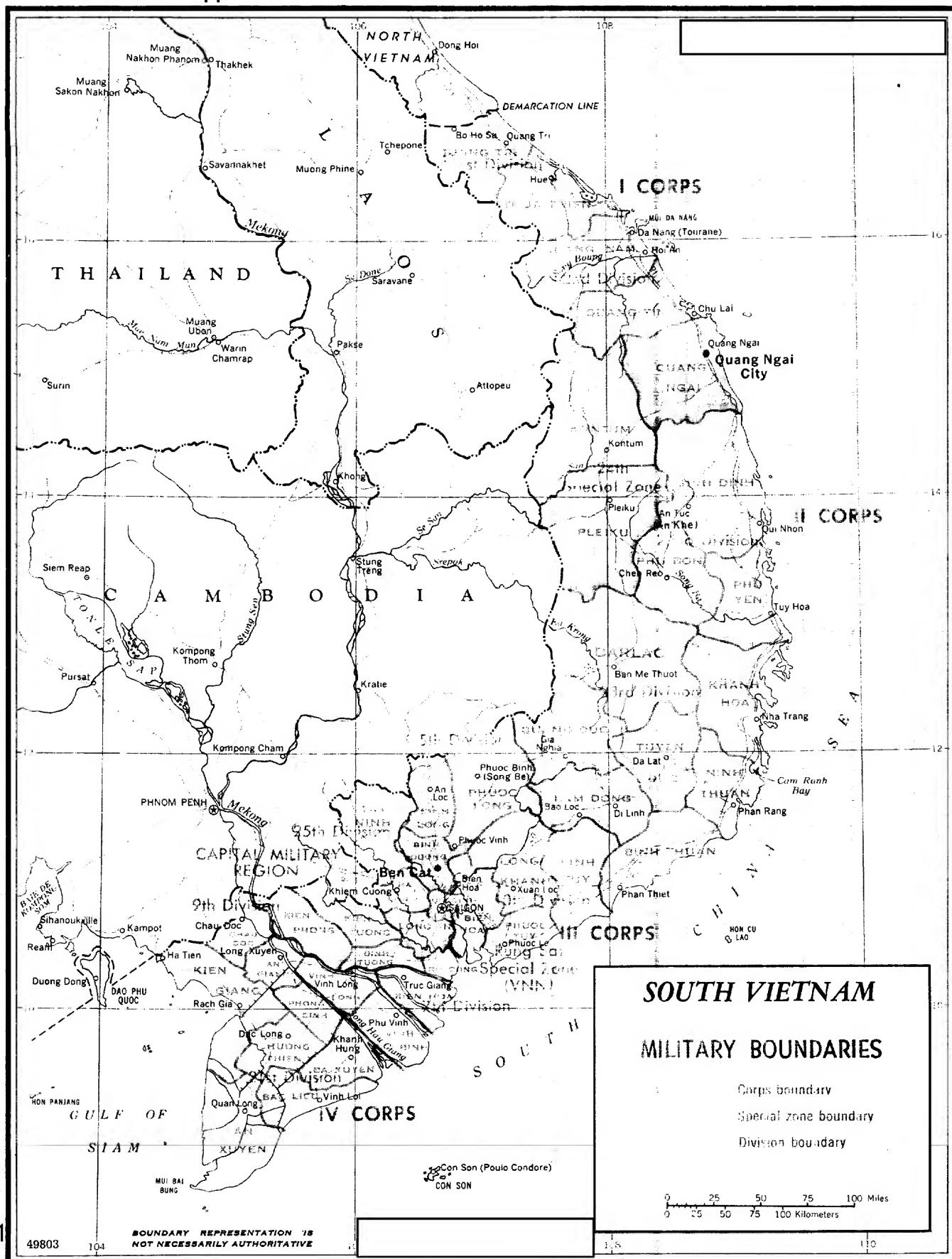
23 November 1965

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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23 November 1965

**\*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)**

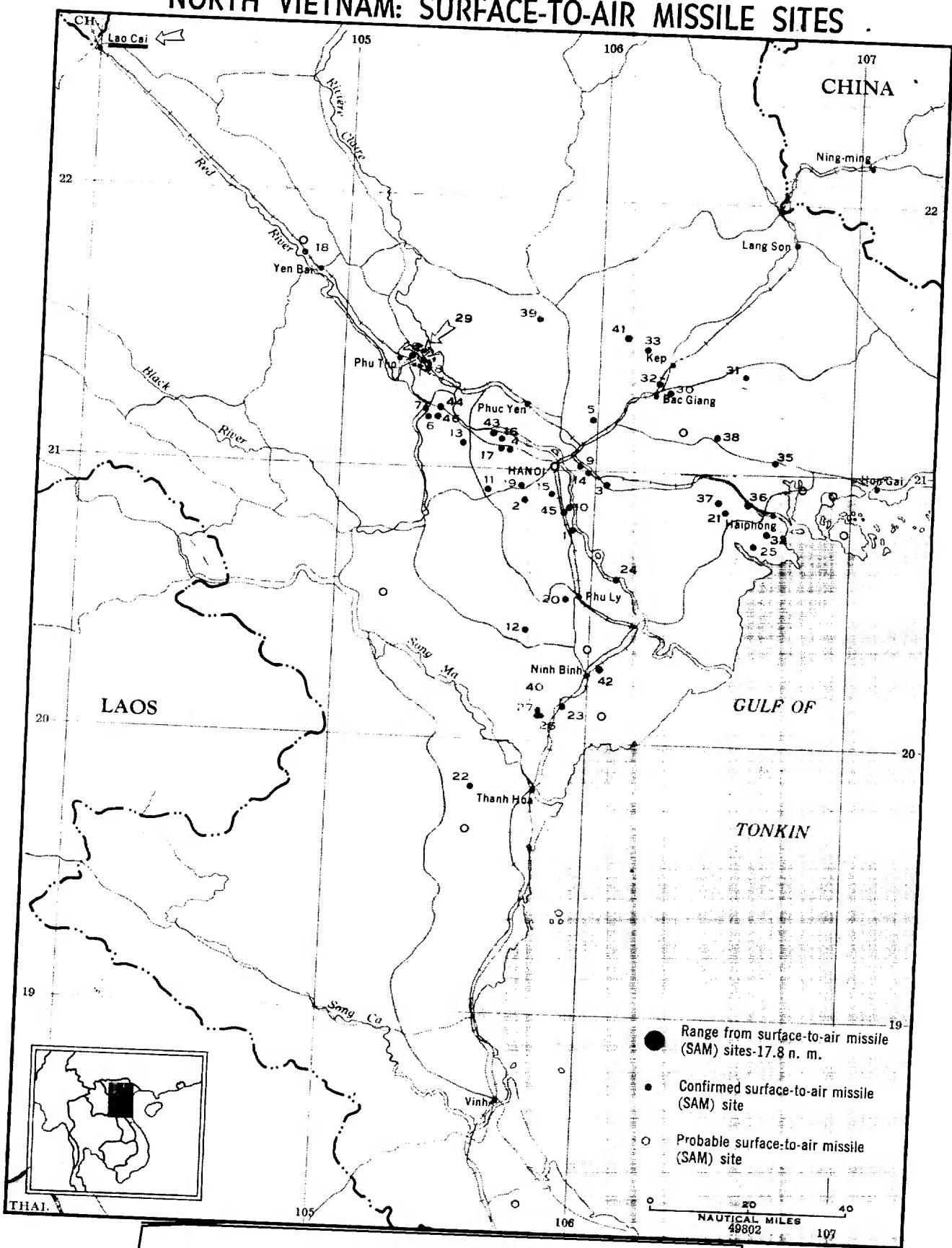
**The Military Situation In South Vietnam:** There have been no reports of significant contact between allied and Communist forces in western Pleiku Province during the past two days. One brigade of the US First Cavalry Division and four Vietnamese airborne battalions, totaling approximately 7,000 troops, are now located in the area.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese government forces on 21 November successfully beat off two major Viet Cong attacks launched south of the provincial capital of Quang Ngai and north of Ben Cat in Binh Duong Province. According to preliminary reports of the two encounters, government troops sustained casualties of 15 killed and 43 wounded while killing 181 Viet Cong.

**The Political Situation In South Vietnam:** South Vietnam's ruling Military Directorate is considering a more representative base for the government. In a recent conversation with Ambassador Lodge, Premier Ky said that the Directorate had "just about decided" to appoint a committee to draft a constitution and was tentatively planning to hold a national referendum for the acceptance of the constitution late next year.]

[Ky envisaged a strong executive and a senate empowered to debate in which various religious, regional, and ethnic groups would be represented. He felt that elections for such a senate might take place in 1967, depending upon the degrees of security and public political awareness at that time. Ky remarked that elections free of Viet Cong intimidation probably could be held now in no more than one fourth of the country's villages.]

## NORTH VIETNAM: SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES



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[Redacted]

Communist Military Developments: [US aircraft attacked two SAM sites on 22 November. Pilots reported that a radar van was destroyed and other SAM-associated equipment possibly damaged at Site 29. Two secondary explosions were observed at the other SAM site, located approximately 30 miles west northwest of Hanoi.]

Communist Political Developments: In his talk with Senator Mansfield on 19 November, Soviet Premier Kosygin reiterated Moscow's standard condemnation of US actions in Vietnam. His remarks added little to previous Soviet pronouncements on the Vietnamese conflict and reflected the USSR's continuing determination to avoid open divergence from Hanoi's stand. Kosygin stressed, however--as did Foreign Minister Gromyko the day before--Moscow's desire to keep relations with Washington on a relatively even keel. Kosygin's and Gromyko's remarks generally demonstrated Soviet concern that the struggle in Vietnam is drawing attention away from pressing problems pertaining to European security.]

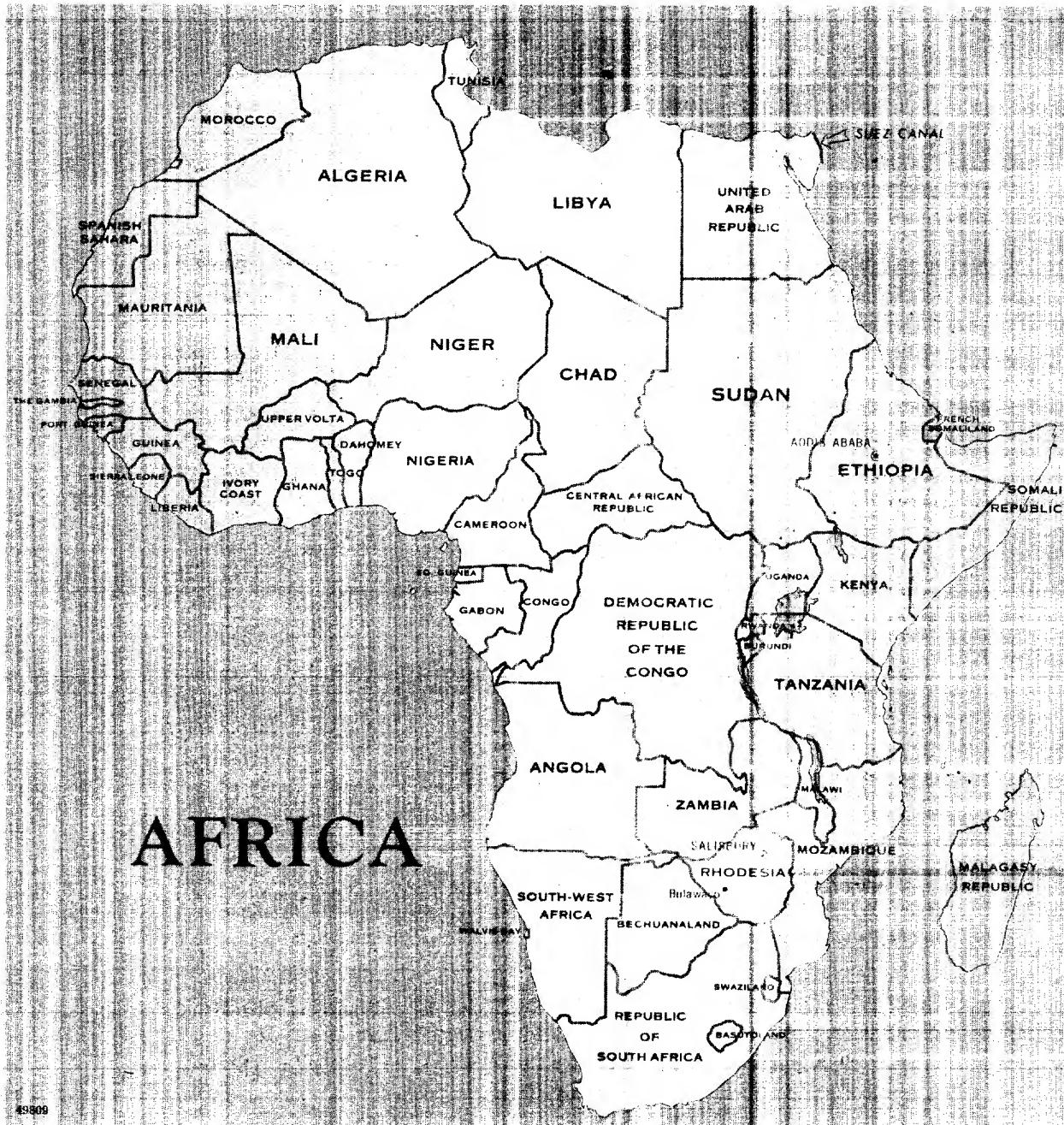
A recent article in the North Vietnamese party daily indicates that Hanoi is taking steps to assure that it has enough food on hand to supply its growing military and paramilitary forces. The article noted that food requirements have "increased greatly" because of the larger number of persons going to "combat and serving combat." This not only requires more food now, but also necessitates an enlarged food stockpile, according to the article. Apparently the emphasis is on building up supplies of rice, since the article indicated that the peasants were to be asked to eat more secondary food, while turning over more of their rice production to the state.]

[Redacted]

Indonesia: The long expected reorganization of the Supreme Operations Command announced yesterday gives the army only some of the gains it sought.

The new structure appears to strengthen the hand of the military at the operational level, but Sukarno and his three deputy premiers, including Subandrio, still remain on the organization's Presidium. Defense Minister Nasution, however, has been added to the Presidium, and lines of authority have been clarified, making the organization in effect a "super cabinet."

The Indonesian News Agency reported yesterday that the regional military commanders had endorsed army commander Suharto's plans for a further purge of the PKI from government positions. However, Subandrio told newsmen that the cabinet would oversee all purges of civilian personnel. The army may ignore this brake on its initiative, however.



Rhodesia: [African nations are looking increasingly toward the Organization for African Unity (OAU) to bring results against the Rhodesian regime.]

[The Africans expect that Britain will fail to bring down the rebel government in Salisbury, and are especially angry at repeated British statements rejecting the use of force. They doubt that the UN Security Council's resolution will greatly change the picture.]

[Several African states such as Guinea and Congo (Brazzaville) have offered the OAU troops for use against Salisbury. Last month the OAU summit meeting called upon OAU members to use force as well as other means to oppose a unilateral declaration of independence if it were not thwarted by Britain.]

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[Inside Rhodesia, another African nationalist attempt to organize a general strike in the city of Bulawayo has apparently failed, but police patrols there are reportedly the heaviest since independence was declared on 11 November.]

[Egyptian officials are playing down impromptu remarks by Nasir last week indicating that Rhodesian-bound cargoes would be barred from the Suez Canal. The official transcript of Nasir's statement omits any reference to this point. The Egyptians are anxious to maintain the record of allowing freedom of transit through Suez.]

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Dominican Republic: A rightist attempt to set up a rival regime to the provisional government collapsed quickly yesterday.

Although the conspirators had hoped for a nationwide uprising, the focal point of their efforts was Santiago, a conservative stronghold. Several hundred civilians, primarily peasants who were trucked into the area, established roadblocks and proclaimed a "Revolutionary Democratic Government" headed by a discredited right wing politician, Thomas Espinosa, who has been deeply involved in the plotting against Garcia Godoy. Local military and police units quickly dispersed the rebels and arrested the leaders.

Top military leaders firmly backed the provisional government and employed Dominican troops against the plotters. However, Garcia Godoy still suspects that army chief Martinez and air force chief De los Santos have been plotting against his government. He may decide to link their ouster with that of leftist Attorney General Morel, in line with his earlier statement to Ambassador Bunker that he did not want to take any action that might be considered "anticonstitutionalist" unless and until such action was balanced by similar moves against the right.

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